Klamath Facilities Removal Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report

Siskiyou County, California Klamath County, Oregon

Lead Agencies: U.S. Department of the Interior, through the Bureau of Reclamation

(Reclamation), and California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG),

Sacramento, California.

State Clearinghouse # 2010062060

ABSTRACT

This Klamath Facilities Removal Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report (EIS/EIR) evaluates the potential impacts of the removal of the four PacifiCorp¹ dams on the Klamath River as contemplated in the Klamath Hydroelectric Settlement Agreement (KHSA). The Klamath Basin Restoration Agreement (KBRA), as well as the transfer of Keno Dam, will be treated and analyzed as a connected action. Together, these two agreements attempt to resolve long-standing conflicts in the Klamath River Basin, located in southern Oregon and northern California. The KHSA and KBRA provide for the restoration of native fisheries and sustainable water supplies throughout the Klamath River Basin. Specifically, the KHSA established a process for a Secretarial Determination. This process includes studies, environmental review, and a decision by the Secretary of the Interior regarding whether removal of J.C. Boyle, Copco 1, Copco 2, and Iron Gate Dams (1) will advance restoration of salmonid (salmon, steelhead, and trout) fisheries of the Klamath Basin, and (2) is in the public interest, which includes but is not limited to, consideration of potential impacts on affected local communities and Tribes.

This EIS/EIR has been prepared according to requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts resulting from the project alternatives on the physical, natural, and socioeconomic environment of the region are addressed.

Comments on this document must be submitted by November 21, 2011. Reclamation and CDFG will consider comments on the Draft EIS/EIR received during the 60-day review period.

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¹ PacifiCorp refers to the current utility and all previous owners/names.